

Regional Agency Climate Change Activities

Association of Bay Area Governments

Climate Change Activities

March 2008

1. Overseeing the **FOCUS Initiative's** initial implementation phase. Developing a FY 08-09 work plan with MTC that will feature planning grants and targeted support for the priority development areas (PDA's). Currently, soliciting applications for FY 07-08 Station Area and FOCUS Planning Grant Program—\$7.5 million available (grants up to \$750,000) for localized planning efforts and associated environmental impact reports, and for specific plan elements. Also, ABAG is offering two local governments \$20K-\$60K grants to engage low-income communities in their planning processes.
<http://www.bayareavision.org/index.html>
<http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/incentives.html#sappgrants>
2. Policy-Based *Projections*: Since 2003, ABAG's *Projections* have been a “policy-based” population, household and jobs forecast, as opposed to a traditional “trend-based” forecast. Policy is reflected in the forecast through the assumptions about the location and density of future growth. These assumptions are based on the policy statements adopted by ABAG's Executive Board in 2002, at the completion of the *Smart Growth Strategy Livability Footprint Project*. As policy-based projections, the land-use forecast is the most complete and detailed expression of the region's land-use policies, namely to direct more growth to urbanized areas with transit and existing jobs. Increased housing and employment densities near transit can effectively reduce VMT and therefore carbon emissions through increased access to public transit and through more walkable communities.
3. Land Use Targets: For the *Projections* 2009 forecast, ABAG's Executive Board will consider adopting performance measures. Most measures are related to climate change, including reducing VMT, carbon emissions and particulate matter. Performance targets are being proposed as part of the *Projections* process to facilitate direct conversations with local governments and regional decision makers about land use's role in reducing VMTs and emissions. Alternative land use scenarios will be developed and tested against the targets. The results of these tests will be vetted through local and regional leaders. ABAG will also monitor land-use related progress toward Climate Change and other targets.
4. Regional Housing Needs Allocation: Every five years the state determines the amount of housing each metropolitan region needs and therefore must plan for. ABAG, in partnership with a committee of local governments and housing advocates, allocates that need to each jurisdiction. Local governments must then plan for this need in the housing elements of their General Plans. ABAG's 2007-2014 allocation of the regional need to local governments is very progressive in directing housing toward

urbanized areas, transit and existing job centers. This allocation is intended to advance regional environmental objectives, including Climate Change. More housing planned in cities with transit and existing jobs means potentially less driving and therefore less emissions. Actual housing production by jurisdiction, relative to local RHNA allocations, is tracked in an annual housing report.

5. Exploring joint development (with Air District and other partners) of **local government outreach program** for best practices/benchmarks for carbon reduction at local level. Could include ICLEI and Institute for Local Governments (ILG). This effort would make good use of ABAG's excellent local government network.
6. Coordinating the **Bay Area Green Business Program** which verifies that businesses meet higher standards of environmental performance. Partnership of government agencies and utilities helps local businesses comply with all environmental regulations and take actions to conserve resources, prevent pollution, minimize waste, and reduce GHG emissions. Aimed towards small to medium-sized consumer-oriented businesses. 1200 businesses and public agencies certified to date; adding 400 new businesses per year. Developing measurement tool that will quantify environmental benefits, including GHG emissions reductions. Free service. Includes on-site visits by county coordinator, PG&E, Smart Lights or other expert. Program focuses on critical near-term emissions reduction. ABAG coordinator about .3 FTE.

Program developed by Bay Area local governments in collaboration with US EPA, Cal EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control and the business community. ABAG coordinates with implementation by Green Business Coordinators in 9 participating counties. The regional and local programs are funded by local and regional government agencies, utilities, special districts and nonprofit organizations that promote environmental compliance, pollution prevention and resource conservation. Some funding also comes from government and non-profit foundation grants.

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/enviro/gbus/gb.html>

7. Working with BCDC, JPC and National Estuarine Research Reserve on **sea level rise workshop** on April 19 for local planning and public works staff, water districts, water treatment facilities, flood control districts, resource and park managers.
8. Operating the ABAG **Energy Watch** program, a partnership with PG&E that seeks to implement energy efficiency projects within local government facilities, and provides policy assistance to improve energy efficiency in the broader communities. Part of this assistance quantifies GHG reductions from energy efficiency efforts. Individual consulting, group workshops and printed materials. Includes city and county governments and special districts. Program helps organizations to identify, fund and implement projects. Funded by utility ratepayers under the CPUC. Sixty-four local governments have received services since 2004. Free services.
<http://www.abag.ca.gov/abagenergywatch/index.html>

9. Operating **ABAG POWER** (ABAG Publicly Owned Energy Resources), a separate joint powers agency formed to take advantage of the current energy regulatory environment. Primary goal is to conduct pooled purchasing of natural gas and electricity on behalf of local governments and special districts who voluntarily join the Pool. Pooled purchasing enables local governments to achieve more competitive pricing from suppliers who are interested in larger and more attractive combined loads. At this time, ABAG POWER is principally interested in aggregating local government loads only. The Pool is currently purchasing natural gas for 38 local governments and special districts in the Bay Area. The group is also looking at a program to assist local governments with solar project implementation. Electricity purchases were suspended in 2001. <http://www.abag.ca.gov/services/power/>
10. Running the second annual **Growing Smarter Together Awards** to recognize excellence in planning and development by local governments. Deadline is March 7 with awards program on April 24. <http://www.abag.ca.gov/smarter.html>
11. Exploring possible **new strategies** and roles that could reduce GHGs:
 - ❖ Find implementation resources that cities badly need to retrofit older buildings.
 - ❖ Find additional funding for Green Business Program to: add staff in each county so more businesses could be assisted; complete development of measurement tool; expand marketing.
 - ❖ Possible expanded use of Build It Green green-point rating system.
 - ❖ Help all cities to create local ordinances on green building.
 - ❖ Work with EPA on their Energy Solutions (beta program).
 - ❖ Tabbed guidance book for local governments on all info and service providers related to climate change.
 - ❖ Helping cities to design and develop more climate-resilient communities (preparation for higher temperatures, sea level rise, water shortages, electricity supply issues, worsening air quality, etc.)

Bay Air Quality Management District Climate Change Activities March 2008

1. In 2005, the Air District initiated a **Climate Protection Program**. On June 1, 2005 the Air District Board of Directors adopted a resolution establishing a Climate Protection Program and acknowledging the link between climate protection and programs to reduce air pollution in the Bay Area. The Board of Directors also formed a standing Committee on Climate Protection to provide direction on District climate protection activities. <http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climatechange.htm#district>
2. In 2006, the District designed and conducted a **Regional Climate Protection Summit** in San Francisco featuring Vice President Al Gore. 500+ attendees also heard Michel Gelobter, Steve Heminger, Carl Guardino and other regional leaders.

3. In 2006, the District conducted a comprehensive **inventory** of Bay Area GHG emissions from all sources. Total emissions in the base year (2002) were estimated at 85 million metric tons of CO₂-e. Currently the District is updating the inventory to the 2005 base year. See Bay Area Emission Inventory at:
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climatechange.htm#grantprog>
4. Currently developing a **stationary source fee schedule** for GHGs. This fee would apply to existing and future stationary sources permitted by the Air District that emit GHGs. At the proposed rate of 4.2¢ per ton of CO₂, the fee would recover approximately \$1.1 million of the Air District's costs for Climate Protection Program activities that relate to stationary sources. Would be first GHG fee in the nation. Board hearings tentatively set for April 16 and June 4, 2008. The item will also go to committees on 2/27-Budget & Finance and 3/13- Climate Protection.
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/ruledev/workshops.htm>
5. In 2007, published *Opportunities for Further Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions for the BAAQMD Stationary Sources*, an **analysis of options for mitigating greenhouse gases** from stationary sources permitted by BAAQMD. The study identified the industries and source categories which most significantly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and potential mitigation options for controlling those emissions. The study qualitatively evaluated the effectiveness, costs, and impacts of each of the most promising options. See GHG Technology Study at
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/BAAQMDMitigationStudyFinalReportMarch2007.pdf>

As a follow up, the District is now working on a study called, Further Greenhouse Gas Reductions for the BAAQMD Stationary Sources, Phase II: Landfills; Industrial, Institutional and Commercial Boilers, Steam Generators and Process Heaters, which is expected to be published in the next few months.

6. Pilot testing 16-lesson **climate protection curriculum** for 4th/5th grade students in 10 schools in FY 07-08. Tentatively plan to expand to 40 classrooms in 08-09.
7. As of June 1, 2007, the Air District is a **climate neutral agency**. The Air District offset 1645 metric tons of CO₂e emitted in 2006 with Native Energy Retailer in support of a renewable energy project. The District is also evaluating and implementing measures to reduce electricity and fuel consumption, and therefore greenhouse gas emissions, associated with District activities. See Climate Neutral at
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climatechange.htm#district>
8. In December 2007, the Air District awarded \$3 million in **Climate Protection Grants** to 53 Bay Area local governments and nonprofits for implementation of innovative projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Over 80 applications for funding were received, reflecting a tremendous amount of interest in pursuing climate protection and a need for this type of funding. For more info on award winners: http://www.baaqmd.gov/pln/climate_protection_grant_program.htm
9. Developing proposal with PG&E, ICLEI and other partners for a **coordinated data**

- web portal** to help cities with data gathering for the development of community-wide GHG emission inventories at the jurisdiction level.
10. In FY 2007-08, the Air District is conducting a series of 8-10 **workshop sessions** with ICLEI to help local governments with climate protection. Workshops focus on different topics including: communitywide emission inventory development, municipal operations inventory development, and selection of greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Workshops are customized to fit local needs and resources.
 11. The Air District is a sponsor for March 20 **CEQA workshop** conducted by Local Government Commission and Attorney General Office (one of 5 statewide). The first workshop will be held in Oakland on March 20th..
 12. The Air District is currently discussing the development of a **best practices web portal** with Institute for Local Government to assist Bay Area local governments .
 13. The Air District is currently working with the state agencies on their development of emission inventory **protocols** and the Scoping Plan (CAPCOA is on their advisory committee for LUSCAT, but our air district is not).
 14. The District is exploring the potential for **2009 Climate Summit** that would highlight local governments.
 15. Staff managed the production of a **CAPCOA white paper** on CEQA and greenhouse gas emissions. Website: <http://www.capcoa.org/>
 16. The Air District is tentatively slated to receive **funding** for regional GHG mitigation activities under a settlement reached between the Attorney General and ConocoPhillips for a planned refinery expansion in Rodeo.
 17. On March 5, the Air District submitted, in the name of the 4 regional agencies, a climate-related proposal for consideration in the RTP process.
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San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Key Climate Change Activities
March 2008

1. Commission adopted a **Strategic Plan** in October 2006 which included a goal to “play an integral role in developing and implementing a regional proactive strategy for dealing with global climate change.” <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/index.php?cat=43>

Subsequently, BCDC initiated the **Climate Change Planning Project** with 4 goals:

- ❖ Identify and report on the impacts of climate change on San Francisco Bay;

- ❖ Identify strategies for adapting to climate change;
- ❖ Develop a regional task force to inform and coordinate local governments, stakeholders, and land use planning bodies in the Bay area regarding the potential Bay-related impacts of and approaches for adapting to global climate change;
- ❖ Identify the findings and policies in the San Francisco Bay Plan pertaining to climate change, such as the findings and policies on sea level rise, and update other relevant Bay Plan policies to incorporate new information about the impacts of climate change.

2. Commission adopted **Climate Action Plan** in July 2007 with 3 goals:

- ❖ Employ the full range of Commission's planning, regulatory and administrative authorities to address climate change issues
 - ❖ Facilitate broad Bay Area interest and participation in addressing the Bay-related impacts of climate change to produce a sustainable, regional response that include specific adaptation measures;
 - ❖ Maximize BCDC's effectiveness and efficiency in addressing climate change issues through partnerships and collaboration with other organizations.
 - ❖ The plan contains 4 initiatives:
 - NOAA project to update Bay Plan and conduct Local Government Forum
 - Coordination of climate change issues within all BCDC divisions
 - Regional planning—Delta Vision project, estuary-wide plan to address climate change, integration of adaptation strategies into new transit-oriented shoreline developments.
 - Maximizing effectiveness through collaboration among 4 regional agencies, State and Federal governments, local governments, NGOs and the public
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3. Report produced in October 2007 summarizing the challenge of climate change and sea level rise in the Bay Area and recommending a new **Regional Climate Change Strategy**. The report highlights BCDC and other agencies' lack of legal authority to address many of the issues around sea level rise and bay development. To remedy this, it proposes a "bold new plan for the Bay" that would be a pro-active adaptive management strategy. The proposed plan would be prepared by a regional agency partnership in cooperation with local governments with the JPC providing overarching management. The report outlines an 8-year, 10-step work program to develop and implement the plan, and proposes state legislation that would be required to expand BCDC and other agency authority.
4. In 2006 and 2007, produced 12 **sub-regional maps** showing projected 1-meter sea level rise impacts. Staff employed geographic information system software to identify the shoreline areas likely to be most impacted. The maps are generally consistent with the projections in the 2006 California Climate Action Team Report. They illustrate an impact scenario in which sea level rises one meter by the year 2100. Since limitations

in the geospatial data may effect accuracy, the maps are illustrative and are not intended for small-scale planning purposes. The maps are based on USGS 2005 Urban Areas digital elevations and National Agriculture Imagery Program 2004 aerials. http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/SF_Index_map.php

Currently working with USGS scientists on further refinements to the maps and to study and map all areas of the Bay filled historically to assess their vulnerability to liquefaction and spreading in a seismic event.

5. Conducted a set of structured interviews with selected coastal managers on **climate-related adaptation/preparation strategies** that builds on a 2006 survey of California coastal managers conducted by Susanne Moser for NCAR.
6. Currently finishing an **\$800K grant application** to Resources Agency (Coastal Impact Assistance Program) for research on the impacts of storm surge, “head of tide” migration due to sea level rise, and Bay sediment dynamics. This work will be linked to broader estuary issues/planning for both the nearby ocean and the Delta. The research will be done by staff and consultants.
7. Working on a new section on Climate Change featuring sea level rise for the July update to the **Bay Plan**. Current Bay Plan: <http://www.bcdc.ca.gov/index.php?p=633>
8. Partnering with ABAG and San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to plan a one-day conference for local governments on sea level rise, storm surge, vulnerability assessments and potential general plan policy approaches. The conference will be on Wednesday, April 16th at Metro Center and will feature local and statewide experts.
9. Collaborating with the Pacific Institute on a study to quantify the **economic value of Bay Area development** that is at risk to flooding from sea level rise and storm surge. This updates a similar study done by Pacific Institute in 1990.
10. Working on **adaptation issues** with the State’s Climate Action Team and the CEC-led PIER program to ensure that resources are made available for vulnerability assessments and response strategies in the Bay Area.
11. Commenting on sea level rise and storm surge issues as part of their **review of environmental documents** for proposed shoreline development projects.

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Climate Change Activities
March 2008**

1. Overseeing the development of the **T-2035 Transportation Plan** (RTP) which

includes, for the first time, a CO2 target— Bay Area transportation CO2 reduced to 40% below 1990 levels by 2035. Currently, staff is focusing on identifying possible regional climate-related programs and developing the technical evaluation process for all RTP projects. The call for projects deadline is March 5. Also, staff is working with BAAQMD on possible RTP/climate projects. MTC will hold 2 workshops March 10 and 13 for input on scope and content of the EIR for the T-2035 plan. MTC is also monitoring the development of the Transit Strategic Vision for T-2035 by the transit operators. http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/2035_plan/nop.htm

2. MTC and ABAG have issued a call for applications for the **Station Area and FOCUS Planning grant program**. Stations areas along Resolution 3434 Transit lines and all FOCUS Priority Development Areas are eligible. Planning grants up to \$750,000 are available for localized planning efforts and associated environmental impact reports, and for specific plan elements.
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/smart_growth/#stations
3. MTC's **climate change program** features information gathering on 40+ transportation CO2 strategies in 4 categories—vehicle efficiency, infrastructure (transit, roads, bike/walk, smart growth, freight), behavior change and “Other.” For each strategy, the resource document provides information on possible lead/support agencies, background data, existing real-world examples, impacts and costs (where available) and possible RTP action. In addition, MTC's climate-related work includes:
 - ❖ Cooperative effort with the Air District and other regional agencies on a climate proposal for the T2035 process.
 - ❖ Worked with partner agencies on workshops in 2007 on greenhouse gas emission strategies and the development of the regional climate action plan in May 2007.
 - ❖ Funding free transit on Spare the Air days in 2006 and 2007.
 - ❖ Co-sponsor role for BAAQMD's Regional Climate Summit (2006)
 - ❖ Funding and support for major steps to reduce diesel bus pollution through new hydrogen fuel-cell buses and \$30 million in retrofit exhaust filters for diesel bus fleets
4. MTC is exploring state legislation to allow a **10¢ per gallon gas fee** to be placed on the ballot in the Bay Area at a future point.
5. MTC and Caltrans, in cooperation with partner agencies, are undertaking a **Regional High-Occupancy/Toll (HOT) Lanes Network** Feasibility and Implementation Study. The study is meant to determine whether a regional network of HOT lanes is warranted, define a phased implementation plan, and provide a regional context for demonstration projects under development in Alameda and Santa Clara counties. The study also will inform regional policies related to HOT lanes. MTC's long-range plan (Transportation 2030) proposes building on the existing HOV system to create a regional network of HOT lanes by converting existing HOV lanes to HOT lanes and expanding the HOV/HOT system where possible. The regional HOT lanes network is intended to:

- ❖ Make more efficient use of all freeway lanes;
- ❖ Provide a reliable travel option for express buses and carpools as well as those choosing to pay a toll;
- ❖ Generate a reliable revenue source that can be used to expand and connect the regional HOV network and expand express bus and rideshare services.

MTC also recently facilitated the development of the transit component of the HOT/BUS scenario with the region's transit operators.

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/hov/>

6. MTC is working with BAAQMD on the development of a 2008 **public information campaign** on climate change and transportation.
7. Staff are **monitoring/advocating** in Sacramento for AB 32 Scoping Plan and land use/transportation climate strategies (SB 375, LUSCAT, UC Berkeley study, CTC etc.). Staff are discussing potential strategies with ARB and Caltrans staff. Legislative staff are also tracking the federal Lieberman-Warner climate bill S. 2191.
8. **MTC's Transportation Awards** recognize people and organizations who have made extraordinary contributions to the way people get around in the Bay Area each day. May 9th deadline for nominations.
http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/awards/index.htm